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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2003

Rapporteur: Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters I and II**

Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
	Letter of transmittal		4
I.	Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee	1–90	5
	A. Establishment of the Special Committee	1–14	5
	B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2003 and election of officers	15–16	10
	C. Organization of work	17–20	10
	D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	21–25	10
	E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	26–33	12
	F. Consideration of other matters	34–53	16
	1. Matters relating to the small Territories	34–36	16

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

** The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Chapters III-XI of the report will be issued separately in document A/58/23 (Part II). Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued separately in document A/58/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/58/23).

03-41968 (E) 050803

2.	Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization	37–38	16
3.	Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	39–40	16
4.	Pattern of conferences	41–43	17
5.	Control and limitation of documentation	44	17
6.	Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee	45–47	18
7.	Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee	48	18
8.	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	49	19
9.	Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations	50	19
10.	Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly	51–52	19
11.	Other questions	53	19
G.	Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	54–64	20
1.	Economic and Social Council	54	20
2.	Commission on Human Rights	55–56	20
3.	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	57	20
4.	Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	58–59	21
5.	African Union	60	21
6.	Caribbean Community	61	21
7.	Pacific Islands Forum	62	21
8.	Movement of Non-Aligned Countries	63	21
9.	Non-governmental organizations	64	21
H.	Action relating to international conventions, studies, programmes	65–67	22
1.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	65–66	22
2.	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	67	22
I.	Review of work	68–75	22
J.	Future work	76–89	23

	K. Conclusion of the 2003 session	90	26
	Annex List of documents of the Special Committee, 2003		27
II.	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	91–99	31
	Annex Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda, held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003		33
III.	Dissemination of information on decolonization		
IV.	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories		
V.	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories		
VI.	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations		
VII.	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations		A/58/23 (Part II)
VIII.	Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara		
IX.	American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands		
X.	Tokelau		
XI.	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)		
XII.	Recommendations		A/58/23 (Part III)

Letter of transmittal

9 September 2003

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2003.

(*Signed*) Earl Stephen **Huntley**
Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of

the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61).

9. At its fifty-seventh session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 11 December 2002, adopted resolution 57/140, in which, inter alia, it:

> "5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2002, including the programme of work envisaged for 2003;[4]
>
> "...

"8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2003 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[5]

"...

"14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

"15. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2003;".

10. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted 10 other resolutions and 3 decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	57/135	11 December 2002
New Caledonia	57/136	11 December 2002
Tokelau	57/137	11 December 2002
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	57/138 A and B	11 December 2002

Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	57/511	11 November 2002
Gibraltar	57/526	11 December 2002

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	57/131	11 December 2002
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	57/132	11 December 2002
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	57/133	11 December 2002

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	57/134	11 December 2002
Dissemination of information on decolonization	57/139	11 December 2002

3. Decision concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	57/525	11 December 2002

11. At its 47th plenary meeting, on 11 November 2002, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session (see decision 57/511).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2003/L.1).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As of 1 January 2003, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members:

Antigua and Barbuda
Bolivia
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela

14. A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 2003 appears in document A/AC.109/2003/INF/1.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2003 and election of officers

15. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting. Statements were also made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Venezuela and Fiji (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.1).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:
Earl Stephen Huntley (Saint Lucia)

Vice-Chairmen:
Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire)

Rapporteur:
Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

17. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2003/L.2).

18. At the 1st meeting, the Chairman made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.1).

19. At the 4th meeting, on 4 June 2003, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

20. At the 8th meeting, on 16 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil (on behalf of the States members of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) as well as Bolivia and Chile) had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the requests.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

21. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by

holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

22. The Special Committee held 10 meetings at Headquarters during 2003, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 12 February, and 2nd meeting, 11 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd and 4th meetings, 2 and 4 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 9 June; 7th and 8th meetings, 12 and 16 June; 9th and 10th meetings, 18 and 23 June.

23. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. G
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. A
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	3rd	A/58/23 (Part II), para. 16
Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico	6th	A/58/23 (Part I), para. 33
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	10th	A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. F
Question of Tokelau	10th	A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. E
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8th	A/58/23 (Part II), para. 93
Gibraltar	4th	A/58/23 (Part II), para. 47
Question of New Caledonia	7th	A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. D
Western Sahara	5th	A/58/23 (Part II), para. 57

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	9th	A/58/23 (Part III), sect. C
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	10th	A/58/23 (Part III), sect. B

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

24. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held eight meetings.

25. At its 10th meeting, on 24 June 2003, following the statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted a report on pending matters related to its work (A/AC.109/2003/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

26. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session,[6] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 2003, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee also recalled that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 57/140, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 2003.

27. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, para. 10).

Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico[7]

28. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2),

the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

29. At the 5th meeting, on 9 June 2002, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and heard the representatives of the organizations concerned at its 5th and 6th meetings (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.5 and 6), as indicated below:

(a) *5th meeting*

Jorge Farinacci García, Frente Socialista; Angel Ortiz-Guzmán, PROELA, Berthaida Seijo Ortiz, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Salvador Vargas, Jr., Concern Puertorican Americans; Alice Hernández, on behalf of Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico; Miguel Otero Chávez, on behalf of Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; Francisco Velgara, Vieques Support Campaign; Betty Brassell, United for Vieques, Puerto Rico, Inc.; Benjamin Ramos Rosado, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Fernando Martín-Garcia, Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño; Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists; Eliott Monteverde, on behalf of Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción; Jose Adames, Al Frente; Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture; Anita Vélez Mitchell, Primavera, Inc.; Julio Muriente Pérez, New Independence Movement of Puerto Rico; and Ms. Wilma Reverón Collazo, Comité Puerto Rico en la ONU.

(b) *6th meeting*

Noel Colón Martínez, Congreso Nacional Hostosiano of Puerto Rico; Róger Calero, Political Rights Defense Fund; Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party; Luis Rosa-Pérez, Puertorican Human Rights Committee; Ricardo Gabriel, Hostos Puerto Rican Club at Hunter College; and Anthony Melé, 65th Honor Task Force.

30. At the 6th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.7.

31. At the 6th meeting, following the statement by the representative of Venezuela (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.6), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.7 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/22).

32. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.6).

33. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/22, adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 9 June 2003, appears below:

Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and that by resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the 21 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly,

Recalling that 25 July 2003 marks the one hundred and fifth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Also recalling the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, which have thus far failed to set in motion the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Stressing the need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Taking into account the measures adopted by both Chambers of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico recommending the convening of a Status Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico as part of the search for procedures that would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, has been used for over 60 years by the United States Marines to carry out military manoeuvres, thereby limiting access by the civilian population to an area equivalent to barely a quarter of the island, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Taking note with satisfaction of the decision adopted by the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the bombings and military manoeuvres on Vieques Island from 1 May 2003,

Recognizing that such decision is the outcome of the prolonged process held during years of peaceful protests carried out by the people of Puerto Rico as well as the wide campaign of international solidarity, which has been appropriately reflected in the works and documents of the Special Committee,

Noting also the consensus existing in the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of realizing the devolution to the people of Puerto Rico of the territories previously used in military manoeuvres, as well as its decontamination,

Recalling the release of 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners in 2000,

Noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the four Puerto Rican political prisoners who are still serving sentences in United States prisons for cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence,

Noting that the final document of the Thirteenth Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003, reaffirms the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514

(XV) and requests the Special Committee to continue actively pursuing the issue of Puerto Rico,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[8]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility of expediting a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in recent years, progress has been achieved towards the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, such as the proposals to convene a status Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico, based on the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should be originally taken by the people of Puerto Rico;

5. *Reiterates* the hope that the General Assembly will give comprehensive consideration to the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects;

6. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, return the occupied land on Vieques Island to the people of Puerto Rico, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, assume the execution and the costs of the decontamination process of the impact areas previously used in military manoeuvres, and take care of the serious consequences to the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environmental degradation;

7. *Requests* the President of the United States of America to release all Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee,[8] in compliance with its resolution of 10 June 2002;

9. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in 2004 on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

34. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

35. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 57/140, in paragraph 8 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories; and in paragraph 8 (e) to continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

36. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see A/58/23 (Part II), chaps. IX-X).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

37. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

38. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

39. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

40. Having regard to its programme of work for 2004, the Special Committee, at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2004 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-

General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, paras. 2 and 3).

4. Pattern of conferences

41. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

42. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2003 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

43. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 57/283 A of 20 December 2002. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee strived to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2004, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July	20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2004, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, paras. 5-7).

5. Control and limitation of documentation

44. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in

compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 57/283 A of 20 December 2002. The Special Committee noted that, in its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, paras. 8 and 9).

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

45. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, as the administering Power, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see A/58/23 (Part II), chap. X).

46. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[3] However, during informal consultations with the Special Committee held in May and June 2003, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee (see sects. I and J of the present chapter). The senior-level representative of the United Kingdom participated in the Caribbean regional seminar held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003 (see chap. II, annex). The Special Committee expressed deep satisfaction at the deepening of informal cooperation with the United Kingdom and also expressed the hope that that cooperation would eventually lead to formal participation of the United Kingdom in the work of the Special Committee.

47. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, adopted resolution A/AC.109/2003/21 on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution, the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, two visiting missions had been dispatched to Tokelau, in July 1994 and August 2002. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see A/58/23 (Part II), para. 16).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

48. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended in the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex), should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the

guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, para. 13).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

49. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was considered by the Special Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 11 April 2003 (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.2).

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

50. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 12 February 2003, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chairman would also have consultations with those members of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2004 (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14, para. 4).

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

51. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 2003 session[19] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

52. At its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, with reference to its decision taken at the 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, authorized the Rapporteur to reformulate the Committee's draft resolutions and decisions into the format of the General Assembly and to submit directly to the Assembly various chapters of the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Other questions

53. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2003/L.1, para. 11). That decision was taken into

account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

54. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 57/133 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2003/47).

2. Commission on Human Rights

55. During the year, the Special Committee closely followed the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

56. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session, in 2003, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (2003/1), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (2003/18), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2003/48), the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (2003/57), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2003/58), and the work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2003/59). The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 57/183, 57/192, 57/197, 57/203 and 57/223 of 18 December 2002.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

57. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 64 and 65 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

58. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (see also para. 53 above). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VI of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part II)).

59. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII).

5. African Union

60. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the African Union on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of the African Union.

6. Caribbean Community

61. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of CARICOM.

7. Pacific Islands Forum

62. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Pacific Islands Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

63. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries regarding the issue of decolonization.

9. Non-governmental organizations

64. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/139 and 57/140, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2003/18) and the present report (see para. 29 above and chap. II, annex, below). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XII of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

65. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 2003 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

66. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

67. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

68. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be actively pursued in 2003. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/2003/26 and A/AC.109/2003/27; see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sects. E and F).

69. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2003/20), the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2003/21), implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2003/25) and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2003/28).

70. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism referred to in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

71. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of

resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

72. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2003/19) which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-eighth session (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. G).

73. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter (A/AC.109/2003/22), which is set out in paragraph 33 of the present chapter.

74. During the period under review, the Special Committee continued the critical review of its work and its programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings. The Special Committee continued discussion on the case-by-case work programmes for each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the informal working groups on the programme of work for specific Non-Self-Governing Territories and held informal consultations on the matter with the administering Powers concerned with a view to improving cooperation between the Committee and the administering Powers (see sect. J below).

75. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

76. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2004 to pursue its efforts in bringing a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

77. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 and particularly with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action contained in document A/56/61.

78. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments concerning each Territory on their political advancement. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.

79. In 2004, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the cause of decolonization through the development of programmes of work for the

decolonization of specific Territories. This will be done in agreement with the administering Powers, and with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussion. The members of the Special Committee are particularly encouraged by the fruitful meetings held to date with the representatives of New Zealand and Tokelau regarding progress made in the process towards self-determination in this Territory and by the effective United Nations Mission to Tokelau, carried out in August 2002 (see A/AC.109/2002/31). Still to be developed are plans to conduct a study of the self-determination options and their implications for Tokelau. The Special Committee also intends to develop, in consultation with the administering Powers and the people of the Territories concerned, accelerated action plans for the decolonization of certain Territories, as set out by the Chairman in his statement to the Caribbean Regional Seminar held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003 (see chap. II, annex).

80. The Special Committee has been greatly encouraged by the growing interest and participation of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the regional seminars it conducts annually and by the wider participation of Member States, specialized agencies and programmes, non-governmental organizations and experts. In this regard, the Special Committee will continue to conduct these seminars, for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate implementation of its mandate. It will also continue to disseminate information on the work of the Special Committee. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2004.

81. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in dispatching United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Moreover, visiting missions are important in the context of furthering modalities and action plans for decolonization and observing acts of self-determination.

82. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration. Accordingly, the Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism. It also intends to develop, together with the Department of Public Information, programmes aimed at territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

83. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, and vulnerability to drug

trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification.

84. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will hold consultations with those organizations, as appropriate, and will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The objective of those consultations is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

85. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

86. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

87. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2004, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2004, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

88. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2004. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request all the administering Powers to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various

requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

89. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2004. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2004-2005 based on the level of activities approved for 2003, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 2003 session

90. At its 10th meeting, on 24 June 2003, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2003 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.10) with the understanding that the Special Committee might hold additional meetings at a later stage to consider the question of sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as to consider the reports of visiting missions.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-sixth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23); and ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

[4] See A/57/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[5] See resolution 2911 (XXVII).

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23), chap. I, para. 29.

[7] Ibid., chap. I, para. 37.

[8] A/AC.109/2003/L.3.

[9] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23), chap. I, paras. 57 and 58.

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 2003

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2003/INF/1	List of delegations	28 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/1	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	5 February 2003
A/AC.109/2003/2	Montserrat (working paper)	27 February 2003
A/AC.109/2003/3	Gibraltar (working paper)	27 February 2003
A/AC.109/2003/4	Saint Helena (working paper)	12 March 2003
A/AC.109/2003/5	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	12 March 2003
A/AC.109/2003/6	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda, to be held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003: guidelines and rules of procedure	7 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/7	New Caledonia (working paper)	26 March 2003
A/AC.109/2003/8	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	8 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/9	Cayman Islands (working paper)	8 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/10	Tokelau (working paper)	8 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/11	Anguilla (working paper)	10 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/12	American Samoa (working paper)	11 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/13	Bermuda (working paper)	30 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/14	Western Sahara (working paper)	25 April 2003
A/AC.109/2003/15	Guam (working paper)	12 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/16	Pitcairn (working paper)	19 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/17	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	20 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from June 2002 to May 2003: report of the Secretary-General	23 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/19	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003	2 June 2003

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2003/20	Information on Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003	2 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/21	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003	2 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/22	Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 9 June 2003	9 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/23	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2003	13 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/24	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2003	16 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/25	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 18 June 2003	18 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/26	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003	24 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/27	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003	23 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/28	Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003	26 June 2003

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2003/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	10 January 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	10 January 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.3	Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	12 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	27 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.5	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	27 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.6	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	27 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.7	Special Committee decision of 10 June 2002 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	27 May 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.8	Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	5 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	5 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.10	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	6 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.11	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	6 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.12	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela	9 June 2003

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2003/L.13	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	13 June 2003
A/AC.109/2003/L.14	Report of the Special Committee	16 June 2003

Chapter II

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

91. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

92. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the Plan of Action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991, updated where necessary, to serve as the Plan of Action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61, annex).

93. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

94. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda, held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003, at its 1st, 2nd and 9th meetings, on 12 February, 11 April and 18 June 2003.

95. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2003/6).

96. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 April, following a statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Caribbean Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.2).

97. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, subject to any directives

that the Assembly might give at its fifty-eighth session in that regard (see A/AC.109/2003/L.14).

98. At the 9th meeting, on 18 June 2002, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as a conference room paper (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.9).

99. At the same meeting, following the statements made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

Annex

Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda, held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003

Chairman: Earl Stephen **Huntley** (Saint Lucia)

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Introduction	34
II.	Organization of the Seminar	34
III.	Conduct of the Seminar	35
	A. Proceedings of the Seminar	35
	B. Summary of statements and discussions	36
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	42
Appendices		
I.	List of participants	48
II.	Statement by the Honourable Osbourne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla	51
III.	Statement by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Special Committee	53
IV.	Message from the Secretary-General	57
V.	Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Anguilla	58

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 57/140 of 13 December 2002, the General Assembly approved the report of the Special Committee,[a] which inter alia called for the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be organized by the Special Committee, in 2003.

3. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/2003/6), the purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories,[b] in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination, in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar would also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

4. The topics considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It also sought to secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the Seminar

6. The Seminar was held at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003.

7. The Seminar held six meetings in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Power, regional organizations as well as experts took part. The list of participants is given in appendix I. The Seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventy Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

[b] At present, the list of Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and to which the Declaration is applicable includes American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

8. The Seminar was conducted by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and United Republic of Tanzania. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the Seminar in its capacity as an administering Power. Argentina and Spain participated in the Seminar.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 20 May 2003, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed officers of the Seminar: Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire), Orlando Requeijo Gual (Cuba) and Mehdi Mollahoseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman himself directed the work of the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group was composed of the representatives of Cuba, Fiji, the Russian Federation and the United Republic of Tanzania.

10. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

2. Perspective of the administering Powers on the completion of the decolonization process in the Caribbean and Bermuda within the context of the United Nations decolonization mandate.

3. Views of the representatives of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and Bermuda on their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in their Territories.

4. Overview of the implications of self-government in the Caribbean:

   (a) Political and constitutional advancement;

   (b) Economic implications of self-government;

5. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. Views of the representatives of the non-Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories on their present status and the completion of the decolonization process in their Territories.

7. Recommendations:

   (a) Recommendations on advancement of the decolonization process in the Caribbean and Bermuda;

   (b) Recommendations on the decolonization process in other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

III. Conduct of the Seminar

A. Proceedings of the Seminar

11. On 20 May, Earl Stephen Huntley (Saint Lucia) opened the Seminar in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar.

12. The Honourable Osbourne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla, addressed the Seminar. His statement is reproduced in appendix II.

13. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made an opening statement (see appendix III).

14. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs, of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix IV).

15. At its 6th meeting, on 22 May, the Seminar heard a statement by the Honourable Osbourne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla.

16. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a concluding statement.

17. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Anguilla (see appendix V).

B. Summary of statements and discussions

Member States

18. The representative of *Argentina* stated that the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) differed from traditional colonial cases and constituted a special and particular form of colonialism that affected the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. He recalled that resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee noted the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Territory which was to be solved through bilateral negotiations, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the islands. He reiterated the position of his Government that the existence of the sovereignty dispute ruled out the applicability of the right to self-determination, since it would be unacceptable that British citizens residing in the Territory decide over a dispute to which their country is a party. He stated that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its determination to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom and to respect the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the islands. He reiterated his Government's disposition to discuss all schemes that could lead to a final solution of the sovereignty dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on that question.

19. The representative of *Spain* reiterated that the General Assembly adopted by consensus every year a decision on the question of Gibraltar that, inter alia, recalled the establishment of a negotiating process between Spain and the United Kingdom, aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar, including the issues of sovereignty. He expressed support for the conclusions adopted by consensus at the seminar held in Fiji in 2002 and noticed that, in the spirit of good relations existing between Spain and the United Kingdom, both Ministers for Foreign Affairs had met in 2001 and 2002, making good progress in the discussions about Gibraltar, in a process that was being wholeheartedly supported by the European Union. He stated that the unilateral initiative by the government of Gibraltar to hold a consultation in that territory lacked any legal foundation and was consequently devoid of any validity or effect, and he underlined that Gibraltar enjoyed nowadays a higher standard of living than the surrounding region, which was harming Spain. He also mentioned the non-compliance by Gibraltar with

European Community legislation in a number of fields. He also referred to Gibraltar as an historical anomaly, stressing that Spain was prepared, through a comprehensive agreement with the United Kingdom, to ensure that Gibraltar could enjoy the maximum possible internal self-government to benefit from a new era of European cooperation.

20. The representative of the *United Kingdom* stated it was not clear that the debate on decolonization always fully recognized how democratic and economically vibrant the Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom were, nor did it give sufficient recognition to their pace of social and economic development. He said that the Special Committee should be aware of the extent to which Territories already ran their own affairs. He also noted that the United Kingdom might be able to encourage and influence overseas territorial governments to follow a particular line, but in large measurement a final decision rested with the government of the Territory. The Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom had been reviewing their Constitutions with his Government with a view to their modernization. That process had not been imposed or driven by London. The Overseas Territories had been responsible for the appointment of local constitutional review bodies, and one of the messages from the Overseas Territories was that they would like more autonomy and a diminution in the Governor's power. The United Kingdom was considering with the Governments of the Territories what might be possible in that regard. He concluded that, although the United Kingdom's policy on informal cooperation with the Special Committee remained unchanged, his Government welcomed the idea of territory-specific working groups within the Special Committee examining the process for "de-listing". In his view, that should be as simple and pragmatic a process as possible, taking into consideration the Territories' capacity to cope with it.

21. The following Member States took part in the discussion of the seminar issues: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Spain, United Kingdom, and United Republic of Tanzania.

Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

22. The representative of *Anguilla* stated that the United Kingdom and the United Nations, along with the Territories themselves, would have to develop new and creative constitutional and administrative solutions to the issue of how decolonization was ultimately obtained and maintained. Concrete mechanisms should be designed and established. For its part, the United Nations needed to "think outside the box" more aggressively. It was not the thought of self-determination that concerned him, but the practicalities of its implementation. In that regard, he pointed out that Anguilla was in the process of conducting a constitutional and electoral reform review. As Anguilla entered the next phase of that review exercise, several key issues regarding its existing status had to be addressed seriously if its relationship with the Government of the United Kingdom was to mature and achieve the level of democratic governance Anguilla was seeking. The United Kingdom should not simply restate that Anguilla was free to take up the responsibilities of self-determination. It was the expressed wish of the people of Anguilla to be prepared to devote serious financial and technical resources to train for the assumption of those responsibilities.

23. The representative of the *Cayman Islands* stated that the Islands enjoyed a long and amicable relationship with the United Kingdom and valued that association, though in recent times the partnership had become somewhat strained. Nevertheless, the people of the Cayman Islands did not wish the territory to become independent. Notwithstanding that, it had become increasingly clear that it was in the best interests of the Islands' cultural and economic well-being to progress on the continuum towards a greater degree of internal self-government, while retaining its ties with the United Kingdom. Constitutional consultation with the United Kingdom was at an advanced stage, but the process was carried out without an awareness of the full range of options available to a Non-Self-Governing Territory wishing to become more autonomous in running its affairs. Having been apprised of the options, the Cayman Government now felt it urgent and critical to study the implications of each in order to be able to make better-informed decisions.

24. The representative of *Montserrat* stated that, in the preceding six years, many of Montserrat's trained persons had migrated, owing to insufficient resources to house the thousands of residents who had been relocated from areas affected by volcanic activity. There were still more than 100 households occupying shelters. Montserrat recognized the need to attract its population back to its shores. The primary objective in the island's sustainable development plan was an increased population. The challenge, therefore, was to find the necessary resources to provide jobs and housing, which would trigger the growth of an economically viable population. He said that, since most of the infrastructure for economic development either had been destroyed or was inaccessible, the people of Montserrat had been forced to occupy and redevelop the northern third of the island. There was still no airport, but later in 2003, Montserrat hoped to commence construction of a new airstrip with funds provided by the Government of the United Kingdom and the European Union. He thanked the Government of the United Kingdom for its assistance in balancing the island's budget and providing some reconstruction financing. In conclusion, he noted that, while the governments in the Overseas Territories had continuously underscored their commitment to the objectives of good governance and transparency, Montserrat also expected that the Government of the United Kingdom would recognize the need to ensure that its Territories enjoyed a level playing field, especially in such areas as the financial services sector.

25. The representative of the *Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste* (FLNKS) of New Caledonia recalled that New Caledonia-Kanaky had been reinscribed in 1986 on the list of territories to be decolonized. Its land had been submitted to massive immigration, with a tremendous boom in the 1960s and 1970s, owing largely to the mining of nickel, its main natural resource. That boom had resulted in demographic and economic links unfavourable to the indigenous people. Support on the international scene for FLNKS in its claim to independence had so far come from countries in the Pacific region, but FLNKS was "afraid" that the French diplomatic offensive, in the form of aid packages to the region, might neutralize support for FLNKS. He asked the United Nations to help satisfy the aspirations of the indigenous people, while offering lasting prospects for all New Caledonians.

26. The representative of the *Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y del Río de Oro* (Frente POLISARIO) gave his perspective on the history of the dispute, and reaffirmed the principle of the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination as the only principle that should guide the actions of the United

Nations in the process of decolonization in Western Sahara. After explaining the reasons why the Frente POLISARIO was objecting to the latest proposal put to the parties by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on Western Sahara, he stated that the United Nations Settlement Plan continued to be the only option which benefited from an international consensus and the agreement of both parties in the conflict.

27. The representative of *Pitcairn* referred to the unfolding court case against some Pitcairn men. The islanders believed that the procedures being followed by the Government of the United Kingdom were impeding the development of self-government, were socially divisive and could destroy the community through loss of manpower. He noted that education was a key element in the decolonization process, and stated that the people in the Territory did not fully understand the possibilities or significance of the various political futures that might be available to them. Independence would require substantial external support of an economic and political nature, by treaty arrangement. Association with another State would immediately raise the question of a long-term association with the United Kingdom. Geographically, Pitcairn would not want to exclude a possible relationship with France and French Polynesia. The two other possibilities were New Zealand and Australia. Regarding integration, he continued, thoughts again focused on French Polynesia, New Zealand and Australia. For practical reasons, the United Kingdom seemed a less likely possibility for integrated status. The people of Pitcairn were eager to develop a work programme with the Special Committee and the United Kingdom Government, in accordance with the Committee's case-by-case approach. He also wished to explore the possibility of a United Nations visiting mission to Pitcairn at an early date.

28. The representative of *Saint Helena* noted that Saint Helena and Montserrat were the only two grant-aided Overseas Territories. In Saint Helena's case, that was due to its isolation and the fact that it did not produce enough raw materials to pay the bills. Presently, Saint Helena had no aspirations towards independence. It could not afford independence, nor did it want a flood of visiting Europeans, anyway. Saint Helena was "very satisfied" with what the United Kingdom had done for it, by balancing the books year after year. Like the others, it would like to have more say in managing its own affairs.

29. The representative of the *Turks and Caicos Islands* stated that the view had been clearly expressed that the political and constitutional advancement of the Islands had not kept pace with their economic development. In 2002, the first ever local Commission had been established to review the constitution and make recommendations to modernize it. The general consensus of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands was to remain an Overseas Territory, with increased powers vested in their locally elected body. There had been no calls for independence, but there had been a call to move towards self-sufficiency. He reviewed the current status of government in the islands. It was abundantly clear that, whereas the people of the Islands were seeking more powers for the locally elected government, they were not prepared to set an agenda towards independence. There appeared to be a desire to pace its social, economic and political development so that the Islands could comfortably move towards greater powers in the governing of their own affairs. That, in itself, could certainly be seen as a process of decolonization on a more gradual basis.

30. The representative of the *United States Virgin Islands* stated that it was particularly propitious to be convening the seminar in Anguilla, in that area of the north-eastern Caribbean region, which had a myriad of governance models among the small island countries. That part of the region contained perhaps the most diverse examples of political models found anywhere in such a small space. Increasingly, all of those jurisdictions were examining political and constitutional review, reform and modernization. He stated that it might be useful for the Special Committee to consider an activity that would provide information on how those models actually operated on the ground in the Caribbean, and in the Pacific, so that the Territories could gain a better understanding of how those models existed in the small island context in "real time", rather than only rely on theoretical definitions of the options, however well formulated. Constitutional and political advancement required informed judgements, which included defending the role of the United Nations in the islands' development processes. He requested that the Secretary-General's next report to the General Assembly on implementation of the decolonization resolutions be comprehensive and include the reasons for the deficiencies in carrying out the various mandates over the preceding 12-year period, including the key provisions of the plan of action of the first, and now the second, International Decade. He sought the further participation of the wider United Nations system in the development processes of the Territories. In the United States Virgin Islands, the 1993 referendum on political status options yielded inconclusive results, partly owing to deficiencies in the public education programme.

United Nations Development Programme

31. The representative of the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP), Barbados, briefed participants on the programming modalities of one of the four field offices of UNDP in the Caribbean. She recalled former high levels of resource allocation to the region from the 1970s through the early 1990s, and stated that, in response to the programming and policy reforms of the United Nations System, the Programme in Barbados had moved to a subregional programming framework. That framework still provided some limited access to programme resources for Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. The priority areas were governance, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, which included disaster management. If structured to support groupings of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their common needs, the programme context of UNDP could provide them with capacity-building and institutional development assistance.

Representatives of the regional organizations

32. The representative of the *Organization of American States* (OAS) highlighted education and public awareness in the Territories as being critical before any decisions were made or referendums were held. OAS had been involved in the constitutional reform of some of the independent Caribbean States, and education programmes and dialogue had been key to the involvement of the people. Although the three options had been set out, there were some variations that needed to be fleshed out within at least two of them. It would be useful for the Committee to build on the models put forth as a basis for public education campaigns.

Experts

33. Experts presented papers dealing with questions and issues proposed by the Special Committee, as reflected above:

(a) An expert from *Montserrat* performed a comparative analysis of constitutional modernization in Montserrat and the Cayman Islands and noted that the recommendations of the respective constitutional review commissions of both Territories reflected both their "progressive" position on constitutional advancement and their conservatism. The Cayman Islands had the human and material resources to propel them towards decolonization. While Montserrat proposed some transference of the Governor's powers to the elected officials, the Cayman Islands seemed to leave those powers largely untouched. The expert recommended further political education, leadership and a clearly defined vision of decolonization by the local authorities, presentation of the full range of self-determination options available and consideration of non-British models. He also recommended that the United Kingdom Government articulate what options it was prepared to consider without restricting the Territories to a rigid timetable for independence;

(b) An expert from the *Cayman Islands* analysed self-government in the Cayman Islands from the perspective of non-governmental organizations. She noted that, its status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory notwithstanding, the Caymans had, over the years, developed a plan to virtually create itself out of nothing, with almost no aid or input from the United Kingdom Government over the preceding six decades. As a stable and sound financial centre, the Cayman Islands had done much right in its own development. How then, she asked, did one address the issue of self-government when a jurisdiction had enjoyed much success under the current system? It seemed that the Cayman Islands were at a crossroads. The Territory must ponder the question carefully as it had much to lose if it took the wrong path. While the people of the Territory did not seem to want independence, they should address the necessary reform of their Constitution and they should be educated about their rights regarding self-determination. A referendum might be required to measure the will of the majority;

(c) An expert from *Bermuda* analysed the economic implications of independence for Bermuda and noted that, of all the remaining British Overseas Territories, Bermuda was the most constitutionally advanced and it had enjoyed prolonged economic stability. In recent years, pressures had been brought to bear on the island's financial services sector from major economic blocs, including the European Commission and the United Kingdom Government. There was also pending legislation in the United States that could deliver a severe blow to Bermuda's economy if passed. While there remained some concern in Bermuda about some of the economic implications of independence, sovereign status would give the island the flexibility to better pursue its interests in the global arena;

(d) An expert from the *United States Virgin Islands* examined the political and constitutional implications of self-government in the Caribbean. He reviewed the three options for political equality and their implications and described the different models of self-government currently existent in the Caribbean region. He concluded that the remaining small island Non-Self-Governing Territories seemed to be focusing initially on the devolution of power and more autonomy for the elected governments as they proceeded along an evolutionary path towards full and absolute political equality through one of the available self-determination options. In the case

of Territories where economic progress had been steady and sustained and where no grant in aid was received from the administering Power, concern was being expressed regarding restrictions imposed from the outside on their financial services sector. That could potentially nudge those Territories towards seeking independence, for they would wish to prevent their constitutional dependency from impeding their ability to adjust to global economic developments and remain competitive.

Observers

34. The observers made presentations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the process of decolonization from the perspective of Anguillan civil society.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

35. At its 6th meeting, held on 22 May 2003, the Chairman presented to the participants the following conclusions and recommendations:

Role of the Special Committee and action plan

1. The participants reaffirm the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle to foster the process of decolonization and to expedite the goals of the Second Decade for the Eradi. ation of Colonialism (2001-2010), as contained in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

2. The Seminar recommends that the Special Committee continue to participate actively in monitoring the evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-determination.

3. Further, the Seminar recommends that the Special Committee play a catalytic role in the search for a specific solution for each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

4. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

5. The Seminar notes the proposal by the Chairman of the Special Committee to expedite a work programme with specified time frames based on the case-by-case approach in order to complete the decolonization process by the end of the Second Decade. The Seminar recommends that the Special Committee implement the programme in consultation and coordination with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there are no pending sov reignty disputes and with the administering Powers concerned.

Constitutional and self-determination issues in the United Kingdom's Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and Bermuda

6. The Participants welcome the cooperation of the Governments of Anguilla and the United Kingdom in holding the Seminar in Anguilla, the first time that it has been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory. While aware that the approach of the Government of the United Kingdom with respect to its informal cooperation with the Special Committee has not changed, they welcome the participation in the seminar of a senior-level representative from the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office and his Government's commitment to continue to engage with the Special Committee.

7. The Seminar notes that the United Kingdom Government's relationship with its Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and Bermuda is based on its 1999 White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories"; that this partnership is based on four fundamental principles, the first being self-determination, and that it has led to the evolution of a degree of autonomy for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the running of their own affairs.

8. The participants note, however, that all the elected representatives of the United Kingdom's Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region present at the Seminar called for greater devolution of powers from the governors to the locally elected representatives and the participants recommend that the United Kingdom Government and the representatives of the Territories discuss this issue further.

9. The participants note with satisfaction, however, the new stated policy of the Government of the United Kingdom for consultation with the elected officials of its Territories on the appointment of governors and urge the Government of the United Kingdom to act with consistency in that respect.

10. The participants welcome the ongoing dialogue between the Government of the United Kingdom and the elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories regarding the constitutional review process initiated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

11. While noting with satisfaction the evolutionary relationship of the Government of the United Kingdom with its Territories in the Caribbean and Bermuda and the ongoing process of constitutional review, the Seminar also observes that this approach does not reflect the full range of self-determination options available to the peoples of the Territories as set out in resolution 1541 (XV).

12. The Seminar further notes with concern that the constitutional review process, has not led, as yet, to a full examination and discussion of all the options for self-determination available to the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as established in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV).

13. The Seminar reaffirms the right of the peoples of Non-Self Governing Territories to be informed about the full range of self-determination options available to them and their implications and urges the United Kingdom to

broaden the discussion with the Territories to include the examination of all options for self-determination.

14. The Seminar also notes the concern expressed by some representatives of the region's Non-Self-Governing Territories that the policy of the Government of the United Kingdom requires its territories to amend their legislation on certain issues to comply with the international obligations of the administering Power.

15. The Seminar recommends that the Special Committee undertake in the immediate future consultations with the Government of the United Kingdom on the application of its policy of constitutional modernization in the Territories in the context of the United Nations policy for self-determination as outlined in resolution 1541 (XV). The Seminar also recommends that the Special Committee hold discussions with the Government of the United Kingdom, in consultation with the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned, on which of the Territories in the region will achieve a full measure of self-government in the near future and, accordingly, would be subject to "de-listing".

16. The Seminar welcomes the statement by the representative of the United Kingdom that his Government would agree to visiting missions by the Special Committee to its Caribbean Territories and Bermuda following invitations issued by the territorial authorities. It also welcomes the assurance by the representative of the United Kingdom that his Government would not object to the Special Committee working with the peoples of the Caribbean Territories and Bermuda to facilitate public awareness campaigns aimed at fostering an understanding of the options available to them for self-determination included in the relevant United Nations resolutions.

17. The Seminar recommends that, following invitations by local authorities, the Special Committee undertake missions to all the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, as well as Bermuda, in the coming year, in order to further discuss the question of self-determination with the representatives of the administering Power and the peoples of the Territories.

18. The Seminar also recommends that, during the same time frame, the Committee undertake to have studies conducted on the implications of all the self-determination options for these Territories and welcomes the possibility of assistance in this regard from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and appropriate institutions in the region.

United Nations Development Programme

19. The participants welcome the presence at the Seminar of a representative of the Barbados office of UNDP and the insight which was provided into the work of UNDP in support of governance in some Eastern Caribbean States and Territories. The Seminar recommends that UNDP provide capacity-building and institutional development assistance for all the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region that are reviewing their self-determination options.

Developments in Non-Self-Governing Territories

20. The participants welcome the participation in the Seminar of the Chief Minister of Anguilla, as the host of the Seminar, and note that Anguilla is in the process of conducting a constitutional and electoral reform review, particularly addressing several key issues regarding its existing status with the Government of the United Kingdom. They also note that the people of Anguilla should be prepared and trained for the assumption of their responsibilities with regard to self-determination.

21. The participants take note that the constitutional consultations between the Cayman Islands and the Government of the United Kingdom are at an advanced stage. However, the desire of the Territory not to request independence remains. The participants further note that, as a result of the visit to the Cayman Islands by the Chairman of the Special Committee in early April 2003, the people of the Territory were made aware of the various options available to them for self-determination and will have to examine these options.

22. The participants note that the main challenge facing Montserrat is to find the necessary resources to create jobs and housing, which would trigger the growth of an economically viable population, as well as the importance of generating a plan of action taking forward the constitutional, political, social and economic advancement of the people of Montserrat.

23. The participants take note of the general consensus of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to remain a "British Overseas Territory" and their desire for greater powers in the governing of their own affairs, as they are not prepared to set an agenda towards independence.

24. The participants note that the United States Virgin Islands is exploring modalities to draft a local constitution on the internal structure of the Government with the aim of a decentralized system with local governance functions on each island. This is to replace the Revised Organic Act of 1954, which was written by the administering Power.

25. The participants take note of the unique position of Bermuda in terms of its constitutional advancement and prolonged economic stability and, bearing in mind the economic implications of independence, at the same time note that sovereign status for the island would give it the flexibility to better pursue its interests in the global arena.

26. With regard to Saint Helena, the participants note the importance it attaches to the support of the Special Committee for those Non-Self-Governing Territories that have no desire for independence but still wish to develop a more democratic government through constitutional change in a long-term and closer relationship with the United Kingdom. The participants further note that a substantial part of Saint Helena's proposals for a new Constitution has been accepted by the United Kingdom.

27. With regard to New Caledonia, the participants note with concern that some measures of the Noumea Accord are still not implemented. At the same time, they note that FLNKS of New Caledonia is seeking the vigilance and support of the United Nations for the respect of this accord and its

implementation in a way that will satisfy the aspirations of the indigenous people of New Caledonia. They also note the request of the FLNKS representative that a United Nations visiting mission be dispatched to New Caledonia to assess the situation on the ground.

28. The participants hold the view that the question of Western Sahara is an issue of decolonization and that it is necessary to implement without further delay the United Nations Settlement Plan, in particular the holding of an impartial, free and fair referendum for the people of Western Sahara. They take note of the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy on this question and urge the parties to continue, under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, to try to resolve the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the Settlement Plan and try to agree upon a mutually acceptable political solution to their dispute over Western Sahara, in order to allow the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination.

29. The participants note that people of Pitcairn are not fully aware of all the possibilities or the significance of the various self-determination options that may be available to them and are therefore eager to develop with the Special Committee and the Government of the United Kingdom a work programme in accordance with the Committee's case-by-case approach to the future status of the Territories.

30. The participants reiterate that the Special Committee should continue to encourage the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Spain within the Brussels process, aimed at achieving a solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

31. The participants reiterate also that the Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), taking into consideration the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

Administering Powers and Other State Members of the United Nations

32. The participants welcome the presence at the Seminar of a senior-level representative from the Government of the United Kingdom, one of the administering Powers in the Caribbean region and look forward to further engagement and cooperation between the Special Committee and the United Kingdom. They regret, however, the absence of the other administering Power in the region, the United States of America.

33. The Seminar expresses its appreciation to Argentina and Spain for their active participation and encourages other Member States to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

Role of the regional seminars

34. As activities of the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee.

35. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, remains a crucial element in their success. The administering Powers should be urged to facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars and in sessions of the Special Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

36. The participants welcome the innovative format of the 2003 Seminar, as it allowed for a focused and detailed discussion on the particular conditions in the British Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and Bermuda, and facilitated the formulation of specific steps to advance self-determination in this region.

37. The participants note with satisfaction that the holding of the 2003 Caribbean Regional Seminar in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Anguilla, including a town hall meeting with people of the Territory, was a success. They therefore emphasize the desirability of continuing to hold the future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately with a view to educating the respective peoples in those Territories regarding the aims and objective of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Furthermore, they emphasize that such seminars reflect in a more precise way the feelings and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories. The administering Powers are called upon to facilitate the holding of future seminars in their Non-Self-Governing Territories.

38. The Seminar recommends that the Special Committee integrate, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the regional Seminar into its relevant resolutions on decolonization, as those recommendations are important expressions of the will of the people of the Territories.

39. The Special Committee should adopt the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar and include it in its report to the General Assembly, as it did with the reports of the previous regional seminars.

40. The Seminar reiterates the importance of the conclusions and recommendations at the previous regional seminars, held in Vanuatu (1990) and Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998 and 2002), Saint Lucia (1999), Marshall Islands (2000) and Cuba (2001).

36. At the same meeting, the participants adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Anguilla (see appendix V).

Appendix I

List of participants

Official delegation of the Special Committee

Saint Lucia	Earl Stephen Huntley Chairman of the Special Committee
Antigua and Barbuda	Patrick Albert Lewis Member of the Special Committee
Bolivia	Erwin Ortiz Gandarillas Member of the Special Committee
Côte d'Ivoire	Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Cuba	Orlando Requeijo Gual Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Fiji	Amenatave Yauvoli Member of the Special Committee
India	Ruchira Kamboj Member of the Special Committee
Islamic Republic of Iran	Mehdi Mollahoseini Member of the Special Committee
Russian Federation	Yury Rudakov Member of the Special Committee
Sierra Leone	Fode S. Kamara Member of the Special Committee
United Republic of Tanzania	Liberata Mulamula Member of the Special Committee

States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Mateo Estreme
Chile*	Antonio Cousiño
Indonesia*	Jonny Sinaga
Saint Lucia*	Michelle Joseph
Spain	Santiago Chamorro Roman Oyarzun

* Member of the Special Committee.

Administering Powers

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Roy Osborne Adrian Pisa

Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Anguilla (Host Government)	Osbourne Fleming Hubert Hughes Victor Banks David Carty Bernice Lake James Connor Damien Hughes Ijahnya Christian Olive Hodge John Q. Gumbs Susan Hodge Celestine John Lolita Davis-Richardson
Cayman Islands	W. McKeeva Bush Roy Bodden Charles Clifford Patricia Ebanks
Montserrat	John Osborne Reuben T. Mead Sarita Francis
New Caledonia	FLNKS Charles Wea Caroline Machoro Francis Smail
Pitcairn	Kevin B. Young
Saint Helena	William Drabble
Turks and Caicos Islands	Derek H. Taylor Irvin Hartley Coalbrooke
United States Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
Western Sahara	Lehbib Breica

Experts

Carlyle Corbin (United States Virgin Islands)

Howard Fergus (Montserrat)

Walton Brown (Bermuda)

Sofia Harris (Cayman Islands)

Programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations

United Nations Development Programme	Paula Ann Mohamed

Regional organizations

Organization of American States	Cecily Norris

Observers

Phyllis Fleming-Banks

Alejandro Betts

Roselyn Casell-Sealy

Appendix II

Statement by the Honourable Osbourne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla

Since I have already shared some of my Government's views on the issue before us, as a good host I will try and be as brief as possible in these remarks so as to ensure that my other colleagues from the Territories get a full opportunity to air their views.

Some of you may be aware that we in Anguilla are in the process of conducting a constitutional and electoral reform review. The process is still in the awareness-raising phase and we are hoping that, when that is completed, as many of our citizens as possible will share their views on how constitutional reform here should proceed. The members of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee have produced a series of extensive background papers on the various provisions of the existing Constitution, which we hope will serve as a backdrop to modernizing a new instrument. I wish here to place on record our appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme and to Her Majesty's Government Fund for Good Government for their assistance thus far in this initiative.

As we enter the next phase of the review exercise, it is the view of my Government that in any event several key issues regarding our existing status will have to be seriously addressed if our relationship with Her Majesty's Government is to mature, become more democratic and achieve the level of democratic governance that we seek.

In the first instance my Government is committed to the principle of localizing as many positions in the Executive Council as possible, consistent with a general devolution of power to the elected government. Presently, our Council consists of the Governor, along with the Chief Minister, three Ministers, a Deputy Governor and an Attorney-General. While we expect that, under the present arrangement, the Governor's position will remain essentially the same, we fully expect that many of the powers of the Governor should be devolved.

In the same vein, we expect that the positions of Deputy Governor and Attorney-General will be filled by nationals in the foreseeable future. We are confident that, in the case of the Attorney-General, this transition will shortly be achieved, but the position of Deputy Governor has still not been resolved. Once again, this is essentially an issue of human resource development and depends both on the professional development of our people and on Her Majesty's Government's acceptance of the principle of localizing key positions.

Secondly, I am sure that we all would agree that consultation is a key principle in the establishment of a more harmonious and productive relationship. To this end, the establishment of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council, which meets annually in London and which includes all Chief Ministers and Leaders of Government along with the Minister responsible for Overseas Territories, is certainly a step in the right direction. Although it may still be too early to judge the effectiveness of this initiative since it has only been in place for four years, we think it is certainly a step in the right direction, as it allows political leaders from the Territories to interact directly with political leadership in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which is the primary point of contact between our elected

government and Her Majesty's Government. But while this initiative may be positive and is certainly a practical expression of the principle of partnership, it can only have long-term credibility if at some point the principle of partnership is constitutionalized. It is our view that the Secretary of State's right of disallowance and power of Orders in Council are too one-sided and subject to arbitrary decision. Indeed, they smack of all that is ugly about colonialism. In the spirit of partnership and building on the practical wisdom of the Consultative Council, it seems to us that concrete steps should be taken to constitutionalize a new process of ultimate decision-making in which careful and structured mutual consent would be the basis of a new political relationship.

While we proceed along the path of political and constitutional advancement, it is important to emphasize that the people of Anguilla must be fully prepared to meet the challenges and responsibilities of self-government. Decolonization without preparation is not how we wish to proceed. Indeed, my government does not intend to lose the focus on economic and social development that all governments have had since Anguillans made the unilateral decision to build a new society in 1967. I will not delve into economic or social statistics at this time, since you all have copies of the working paper on Anguilla, which contains relevant information. However, I must say that we still have a considerable road to travel before we can feel confident that our economic base is dynamic enough and as diverse as it can possibly be in a small place. Although our tourism economy has grown well in the last 25 years and continues to grow in an orderly and controllable manner, we are still too dependent on this sector and are insufficiently diversified to be self-sustaining. We still have a long way to go before we can feel confident that our health and educational services are at a standard that will provide for sustainable human resource development and efficient health care. On that note, I must say that we are somewhat disappointed with the declining levels of assistance from Her Majesty's Government to the social sectors, and in particular, the health sector. So we challenge the United Nations and the United Kingdom to work with us in our preparation to assume the essential responsibilities of governance. We invite the Special Committee to visit with us, at your convenience, to discuss the political, socio-economic and constitutional development process in Anguilla. We trust that the United Nations and the United Kingdom will expand and accelerate what would appear to be a new spirit of cooperation in finding practical solutions to the issue of global decolonization.

Appendix III

Statement by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Special Committee

In understanding the role of the Special Committee in the process of decolonization, we must first return to and reiterate the starting point for the work of the Committee. It is that the United Nations adopted, in 1960, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples under resolution 1514 (XV) and under resolution 1541 (XV) further defined full self-government as being one of three options: independence; free association with an independent State; integration into an independent State.

The Special Committee of 24 was established in 1961 to examine the application of the Declaration and to make recommendations on its implementation. The Special Committee was also empowered to recommend to the General Assembly the removal from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories those Territories it was satisfied had exercised the right to self-determination and had achieved full self-government. Since its inception, the Special Committee has served as the primary vehicle of the United Nations in fostering the process of self-determination and subsequent decolonization of 60 former Territories since the adoption of the Decolonization Declaration in 1960. Accordingly, over 85 million people have achieved a self-governing existence since that time.

The Special Committee on Decolonization is not here to persuade, force or otherwise influence the people of the Territories into immediately changing their present arrangements. It is certainly not here to force them into independence, as is the popular conception or misconception fed by some in the past who preferred the United Nations not to interfere in the Territories, and so the misinformation was useful in distancing the peoples from the Committee. The Committee is here to provide the people of the Territories with information on all the options of political equality open to them, and to assure you, the representatives of the peoples of the Territories, that, should you so choose, the Special Committee and the United Nations system in general stand ready to assist.

The Committee is also here to work with administering Powers to fulfil a mandate to which they all agreed: to allow colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination, that is, choosing one of the three options to which I have referred.

The Committee has been performing its role through four major activities:

(a) Organizing these regional seminars, which are designed to heighten the awareness of United Nations Member States on the intricacies of the situation in the individual Territories. These sessions also serve to enhance the knowledge of the representatives of the Territories themselves about the statutory role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination and decolonization, consistent with Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations in reference to "respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples," and consistent with the human rights conventions, which speak of the inalienable right to self-determination;

(b) Conducting a week-long session beginning in June at United Nations Headquarters, during which the representatives of the territorial Governments and non-governmental organizations have the opportunity to address the Committee. I look forward to seeing more of the Caribbean Territories than in past years participating in our review process in New York so that the entire Special Committee can benefit from your knowledge;

(c) Adopting resolutions on all the Non-Self-Governing Territories listed with it and that is generally done during the month of June;

(d) Organizing visiting missions to the Territories.

By 1991, there were 17 Territories left on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the majority being small island Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Atlantic, and so the United Nations declared the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Special Committee is aware that the first Decade, covering the period from 1991 to 2000, did not end with the successful conclusion of full internal self-government in the remaining small island Territories, and the second Decade (2001-2010) devoted to this aim is filled with hope that we can succeed.

We are therefore well into the third year of this new Decade, but as I have said before, we must not allow ourselves the declaration of a third or fourth decade to complete our task. It is unacceptable, for as I have also said before, colonialism has been on our agenda for too long; and as the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, himself has also said, we must bring an end to this chapter of history. To do this, however, the Special Committee must change its role, it must change its approach to its task. It must do more than merely inform and educate and pass resolutions on decolonization; it must agitate; it must be proactive; it must be the catalyst that pushes the process of decolonization along the path decreed by the United Nations. This is the role that I see for the Committee and this is where we are today.

The Committee, in fact, began this more activist role with the adoption three years ago of a case-by-case work programme to achieve its objectives. This approach has yielded some small progress with its application to one of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific: Tokelau; the Committee had its first visiting mission in eight years when it went to Tokelau last year. But we recognize that we need to do more with that case-by-case approach. At the opening of the session of the Special Committee in February 2003, I stated that we needed to put in place an action programme that would lead to an automatic process of decolonization of the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories within this decade. While at the time I did not elaborate on this action programme, except to say that the Committee should make use of working groups for each Territory, let me now do this and explain this new role for the Committee.

What is envisaged is an action plan that will comprise four elements:

(a) A series of activities based on the case-by-case approach developed by the Committee;

(b) The adoption of a timetable for implementation of the activities. Target dates will be set for all the activities so that, once the programme commences, the thrust will be to achieve objectives by the dates prescribed;

(c) Application of the programme to all the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the same time instead of one or two at a time on an ad hoc basis;

(d) Use of the working groups of the Committee to implement aspects of the programme.

The action plan

The action plan is based on the work programme that had been devised for the case-by-case approach to the decolonization issue. That work programme comprises 10 activities:

1. Meeting with representatives of the administering Powers and/or representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territory concerned.

2. Briefing and exchange of views.

3. Discussions on the existing constitutional framework of the Territory.

4. Information dissemination and educational programmes.

5. Visiting missions.

6. Consultation mechanism(s).

7. Implementation of the act of self-determination.

8. Legislative and administrative action by the administering Power to transfer remaining powers and constitutional authority to the territory pursuant to resolution 1514 (XV).

9. Coordination.

10. A possible General Assembly resolution as recommended by the Special Committee.

Jump-starting or operationalizing the plan involves collapsing some of the activities into four major clusters or steps, which will then be carried out by the Committee, through its Working Group, within a specified time frame. These stages are as follows:

1. Meetings with representatives of the Territories and the administering powers to discuss the current constitutional situation and to understand the aspirations of the Territories;

2. Exchanging views with the Territories and administering Powers on the options for self-determination and their implications on the basis of studies of these implications;

3. Devise with the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers modalities for an act of self-determination;

4. Devise and implement with the Territories, the administering Powers, and the United Nations, public education programmes on options for self-determination and their implications.

Stages 1, 2 and 3 will take place through regional seminars, meetings at Headquarters and visiting missions.

The timetable for these stages is as follows:

Dates	*Stages*
May 2003-May 2004	1 and 2
June 2004-December 2004	3 and 4
2005	Continuation of Stage 4 leading to the conduct of the act of self-determination
2006-2010	Implementation of the act of self-determination

The 2003 Caribbean Regional Seminar

This seminar falls within the first step or cluster. We are commencing the action plan with this seminar in Anguilla. What we have done here today is to bring together the elected representatives of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories, their administering Power, the United Kingdom, and the Committee to discuss the current constitutional situation in the Territories. The United Kingdom has embarked upon a programme of constitutional modernization in the Territories based on its 1999 White Paper for the Territories. What we need to find out is whether this policy is leading to self-government for the Territories. Are the Non-Self-Governing Territories satisfied with the constitutional modernization process? Does it meet their aspirations? As far as the Committee is concerned, the policy is not within the context of the United Nations mandate for decolonization as it does not offer to the Territories all the options for self-government which the United Nations set out in resolution 1541 (XV). It limits the Territories to either attaining independence or retaining their status quo, which is one of colonialism.

What we need to do in this seminar, therefore, is to work out and agree upon how we can bring the present United Kingdom's policy on constitutional modernization of the Territories in line with the United Nations mandate on self-determination so that the Territories can attain self-government through our action programme within the time frame that the United Nations has set — by the end of this decade.

Appendix IV

Message from the Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to all who have gathered in Anguilla for this regional seminar on decolonization, the first time that such a seminar is being held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory. I would like to thank the Government of Anguilla for hosting this event, as well as the Government of the United Kingdom for the cooperation and assistance it has provided.

Achieving self-government for the peoples of the world has been one of the cardinal goals of the United Nations since its inception. Under the Organization's auspices, more than 80 million people have exercised their right to self-determination, and decolonization can truly be considered a United Nations success story.

Today, there are 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining on the United Nations list. As an organ mandated to facilitate decolonization, the Special Committee organizes seminars such as this one to provide a forum for the two million people living in these Territories to air their views about the unique problems they face, and to promote direct communication between the Special Committee, the representatives of the Territories and the administering Powers. This year, the Committee decided to focus on the specific problems of the Territories in the Caribbean and on the practical steps that need to be taken to complete the decolonization process in the region.

According to the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Decolonization, a full measure of self-government can be achieved by a Non-Self-Governing Territory through free association or integration with another State, or through independence. Many of the Territories have made considerable progress in their political, constitutional, economic and social development, and have gone a long way towards self-government. I urge you all to continue working together to find the appropriate format and timing for the completion of decolonization in each Territory. And I wish you all a productive and successful seminar.

Appendix V

Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Anguilla

The participants in the Caribbean Regional Seminar,

Having met from 20 to 22 May 2003 at The Valley, Anguilla, for the purpose of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with particular emphasis on the Caribbean region and Bermuda and the constitutional evolution of those Territories towards self-determination, in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Having heard the important statement by the Honourable Osbourne Fleming, Chief Minister of Anguilla,

Taking note of the important statement by the representative of the United Kingdom, an administering Power for the majority of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region and Bermuda,

Taking note also of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. *Express their gratitude* to the Government of the United Kingdom for making it possible to hold the first regional seminar of the Special Committee in a Non-Self-Governing Territory;

2. *Express their profound gratitude* to the Government and people of Anguilla for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Anguilla.